8325096/2023/VIG-II-AGC01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Agricultural Marketing Department – Departmental proceedings initiated against Sri K. Eswara Rao, the then Selection Grade Secretary, AMC, Ongole & presently working on OD as Selection Grade Secretary, AMC, Chilakaluripeta on the allegation of financial irregularities in procurement of Banana, Sweet oranges and funds drawn advance from AMC, Ongole for purchasing of stationary, electrical items and Covid-19 sanitization items etc. – Inquiry conducted – Charges held not proved – Further action dropped – Orders – Issued.

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AGRICULTURE & CO-OPERATION(VIG.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.908 **Dated:21.12.2023**

Read the following:-

1. G.O.Rt.No.244, Agri.& Coop(Vig.II)Dept., dated: 27.04.2021.
2. Written statement of defence dated:07.06.2021 of Sri K. Eswara Rao, the then Selection Grade Secretary, AMC, Ongole & presently working on OD as Selection Grade Secretary, AMC, Chilakaluripeta.
3. Govt.Memo No.AGC01-MKTG/12/2021-VIG.II, dated:28.09.2021.
4. Inquiry report dated:06.07.2023 of the Inquiring Authority & RJDM, Visakhapatnam received from the C&DoAM, AP through e-file (Computer No.1256924) on 05.12.2023.

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O R D E R:

In a disciplinary case, on the allegation of financial irregularities in procurement of Banana, Sweet oranges and funds drawn advance from AMC, Ongole for purchasing of stationary, electrical items and Covid-19 sanitization items etc., the Government had initiated departmental proceedings by framing the following article of charge against Sri K. Eswara Rao, the then Selection Grade Secretary, AMC, Ongole vide G.O.1st read above:-

Article of Charge:-

"That Sri K. Eswara Rao, Selection Grade Secretary, AMC, Ongole has failed to discharge his official duties and committed grave misconduct as indicated below by violating that:-

i. he has not maintained the records / registers prescribed by the Department in the sale of Banana, Sweet Lemon and Vegetables. And he has not maintained the records properly to assess the amount misused by him i.e. purchase of sanitization items, stationery items, Covid-19 sanitizers; and

ii. he has not disbursed an amount of Rs. 35,500/- to either suppliers or to Sri S. Seetharamaiah, Ex-Selection Grade Secretary (FAC), AMC, Ongole, even CFMS cleared the bill and amount was credit in the current account AMC, Ongole.

Thus, he has failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of the public servant and contravened Rule 3 of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and Rule 31 of AP(AP&LS) Markets Rules 1969".

(P.T.O)

2. The Charged Officer Sri K. Eswara Rao, the then Selection Grade Secretary, AMC, Ongole has submitted his written statement of defence on 07.06.2021 denying the article of charge framed against him and requested to drop further action against him.

3. Since the Charged Officer has denied the charge framed against him, in the reference 3rd read above, orders have been issued appointing Sri P. Sudhakar, Regional Joint Director of Marketing, Kadapa as Inquiring Authority and the Regional Deputy Director of Marketing, Kadapa as Presenting Officer for conducting regular inquiry into the charge framed against the Charged Officer.

4. After conducting regular inquiry, Sri P. Sudhakar, Inquiring Authority & Regional Joint Director of Marketing, Visakhapatnam has submitted the inquiry report dated:06.07.2023. The findings of the Inquiring Authority in the inquiry report are as follows:-

> **Charge No.1** : As per the defence statement submitted by the Charged Officer and the details of bills and particulars furnished by him, that the Charged Officer has maintained connected records i.e. Procurement of Banana and Purchase of Sanitization items. Hence, the charge is not held proved.
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> **Charge No.2** : As per the defence statement submitted by the Charged Officer, he has stated that the UDC Sri T. Tirupati Rao was on leave due to CARONA for the period from 08.09.2020 to 13.10.2020. Hence, the late remittance has been occurred for the amount of Rs.35,000/- could not be remitted in time resulting in late remittance. As per the Bank Statement, the amount of Rs.30,600/- was paid to M. Kishore, Mrs. Sri Rama Graphics, Ongole through Cheque No. 786687, dt:19.10.2020 and the remaining of Rs.4,900/- to Zoom Digital Press Colour Lab on 20.10.2020.
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> In view of the findings of the inquiry as stated above, the Inquiring Authority has concluded that the amount of Rs.35,500/- was disbursed to the concerned, hence the charges not held proved. Hence, the charge may be dropped.

5. After thorough examination of the matter, Government have accepted the findings of the Inquiring Authority in the inquiry report dated:06.07.2023 and decided to drop further action against the Charged Officer Sri K. Eswara Rao, the then Selection Grade Secretary, AMC, Ongole & presently working on OD as Selection Grade Secretary, AMC, Chilakaluripeta duly exonerating from the charges framed against him.

6. Accordingly, Government hereby order to drop further action against the Charged Officer Sri K. Eswara Rao, the then Selection Grade Secretary, AMC, Ongole & presently working on OD as Selection Grade Secretary, AMC, Chilakaluripeta duly exonerating from the charges framed against him, in the instant disciplinary case.

(Contd...3)

7. The Commissioner & Director of Agriculture Marketing, A.P., Guntur shall take further necessary action in the matter, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

CHIRANJIV CHOUDHARY, IFS,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri K. Eswara Rao,
The then Selection Grade Secretary, AMC, Ongole &
presently working on OD as Selection Grade Secretary,
AMC, Chilakaluripeta
(Through : The Commissioner & Director of Agricultural Marketing,
A.P., Guntur)
Copy to:-
The Commissioner & Director of Agricultural Marketing,
A.P., Guntur.
SF/SC.

// FORWARDED::BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER